

A clergyman friend of mine once told me that 85 percent of success in anything is physical presence. All of us know that is true in politics. But if you ask anyone in law enforcement what they think about the physical presence of police officers on the street, they will tell you that it works, it will reduce crime, it will have the neighborhoods be involved with the community, and would have a positive reflection on the crime rate.

I also say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that they should spend time in their districts, where we had police community grants awarded last year. I did that this past weekend. I spent time in the borough of Pottstown, which received Federal funding for two police officers about 10 months ago. They have reduced the crime rate in that borough because they have the physical presence of police officers walking the beat and being involved in the community.

I also was very fortunate to have 24 municipalities in my district last week who were awarded funds to hire one additional police officer. I believe that is going to have a great effect on reducing the crime rate in those municipalities.

I urge my colleagues to please reconsider what they are proposing this afternoon, please reconsider what they will do to the program that will put 100,000 police officers on the street.

We do not need to have examples, as the gentleman from Illinois said, of abuse in the grant program. We need to have the police officers on those streets, fighting crime. I urge my colleagues to support the Conyers-Schumer substitute this afternoon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12, rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

(Accordingly, at 1 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m., the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.)

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. COMBEST] at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, You have made the rivers and oceans and all the mountains, You brought into being people from every place on this Earth and You have done all things for our use and for our satisfaction. But more than all those gifts, O God, You have breathed into us the very breath of life, You know our names and You know our needs even before we ask. We offer this

prayer in gratefulness of these blessings, for the opportunities before us, and for the comfort of Your eternal presence. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. SKAGGS] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SKAGGS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Hallen, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 178. An act to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to extend the authorization for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 257. An act to amend the charter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to make eligible for membership those veterans that have served within the territorial limits of South Korea.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 8002 of title 26, United States Code, the Chair announces on behalf of the chairman of the Committee on Finance, a substitution in the membership of the Joint Committee on Taxation. Mr. DOLE has resigned from the Joint Committee and will be replaced by Mr. HATCH for the duration of the 104th Congress only. Therefore, the membership of the Joint Committee on Taxation for the 104th Congress is as follows: Mr. PACKWOOD, Mr. ROTH, Mr. HATCH, Mr. MOYNIHAN, and Mr. BAUCUS.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 1024 of title 15, United States Code, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, announces the following majority appointments to the Joint Economic Committee: Mr. MACK, chairman; Mr. ROTH, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. GRAMS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on Friday last I was not present on the floor when the rollcall vote for H.R. 666 was taken, the Alien Deportation Act. Had I been present and on the floor, Mr. Speaker, I would have voted "aye."

REPUBLICAN CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, our Contract With America states the following:

On the first day of Congress, a Republican House will: Force Congress to live under the same laws as everyone else; cut committee staffs by one-third; and cut the congressional budget—we have done this.

It goes on to state that in the first 100 days, we will vote on the following items: A balanced budget amendment—we have done this; unfunded mandates legislation—we have done this; line-item veto—we have done this; a new crime package to stop violent criminals—we are doing this now; welfare reform to encourage work, not dependence; family reinforcement to crack down on deadbeat dads and protect our children; tax cuts for families to lift Government's burden from middle-income Americans; national security restoration to protect our freedoms; Senior Citizens' Equity Act to allow our seniors to work without Government penalty; Government regulatory reform; commonsense legal reform to end frivolous lawsuits; and congressional term limits to make Congress a citizen legislature.

This is our Contract With America.

SUPPORT THE VOLKMER CRIME BILL

(Mr. VOLKMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a comprehensive crime bill that will really do something about crime instead of what the House has been doing the past few days. My bill will really build prisons, my bill will repeal the ban on semiautomatic rifles and shotguns, and my bill will put people behind bars who use guns and not let them back out in a revolving door.

Mr. Speaker, we need massive firepower to stop crime in this country and what I am seeing the House do now is fire BB's. The House tried this piecemeal approach at combating crime last year and look where it got us. My bill will return the right of law-abiding citizens to own the gun of their choice and at the same time build prison cells to make sure that if a criminal does a crime they will do the time.

Mr. Speaker, I realize the present Judiciary Committee will not see fit to move this comprehensive crime bill, but instead will continue down this piecemeal approach that we all know will have the same success in the other body as it did last year. If you really want to support a crime bill that focuses on criminals I ask you to support my bill.